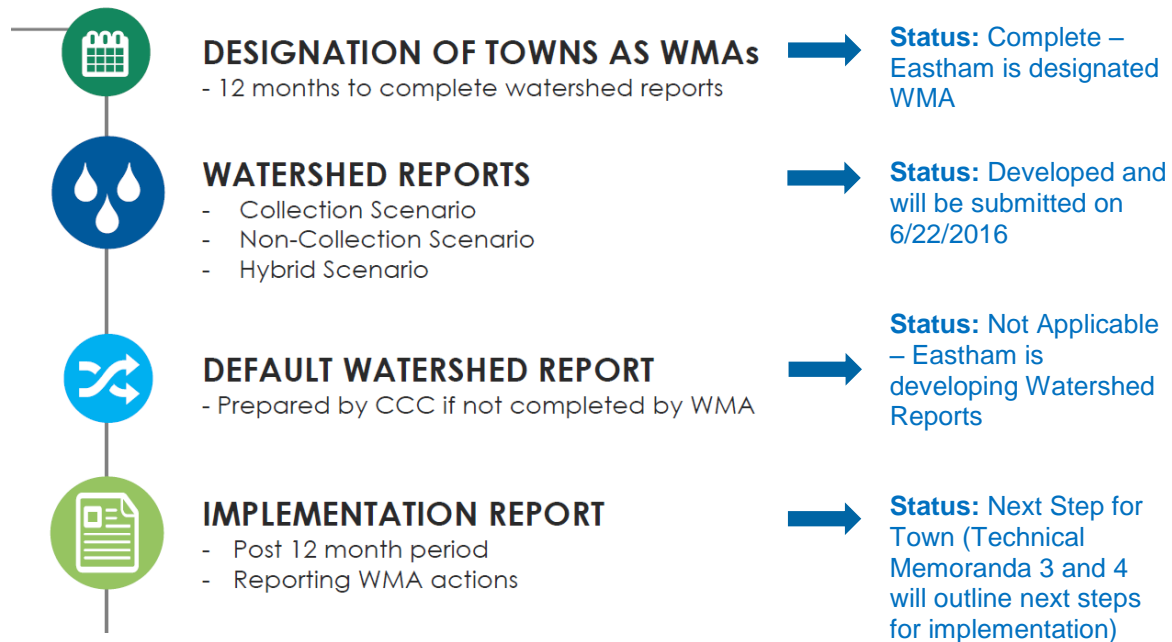


Update to Board of Selectmen on Cape Cod Commission Watershed Reports, June 21, 2016

This update is intended to provide background information and a summary of Eastham's Watershed Reports that are due to be submitted to the Cape Cod Commission by June 30, 2016. Patty Daley of the Cape Cod Commission presented to the Board of Selectmen on January 20, 2016 and provided a timeline of required actions by the Town as shown below. The status of the items is noted next to the required action.



Why are Watershed Reports Required?

The Cape Cod Commission and Towns are obligated under the settlement agreement between the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Cape Cod Commission (as part of this settlement) has submitted the Section 208 Cape Cod Area Wide Water Quality Management Plan Update (208 Plan Update). Watershed Reports are due to be submitted to the EPA one year following the 208 Plan Update submission (June 2016).

How Many Watershed Reports is Eastham Required to Develop?

Eighty Nine (89) estuaries were identified as part of the Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP) and each one is required to have a watershed report developed as part of the 208 Plan. Five (5) of the 89 watersheds are located in Eastham. They are:

- Boat Meadow
- Herring River
- Wellfleet Harbor
- Rock Harbor
- Nauset Harbor (including Salt Pond and Town Cove)

What are Watershed Reports?

The 208 Plan Update provides a Watershed Report template, and watershed information and data for the Town's use in development of Watershed Reports. The Town and GHD have taken this template and background information previously developed by the CCC and developed five separate Watershed Reports summarizing possible approaches to address nitrogen TMDLs. In general the Watershed Reports each include:

- MEP and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) status
- Sources of controllable nitrogen
- Contributing Towns
- Watershed reduction targets
- General estuary and watershed information (area, # of parcels, % residential, etc.)
- Stream and pond information
- Drinking water sources
- Overall ecological condition and degree of impairment
- Nitrogen management approaches (traditional, non-traditional, and hybrid approaches)

What are the Nitrogen Management Approaches for the Five Watersheds?

For the purposes of the 208 Plan Update, areas of need are primarily defined by the amount of nitrogen reduction required as defined by the TMDL and/or MEP technical report. The Watershed Reports can be categorized as follows based on the status of MEP Technical Report development and whether a TMDL exists:

WATERSHED	MEP REPORT STATUS	TMDL	NITROGEN MANAGEMENT APPROACH
BOAT MEADOW	None; not being studied currently	No; no MEP data	No approach; no evidence of water quality impairment at this time.
HERRING RIVER	None; not being studied currently	No; no MEP data	No approach; no evidence of water quality impairment at this time.
WELLFLEET HARBOR	Pending; data collection phase	No; in progress	No approach; no evidence of water quality impairment at this time.
ROCK HARBOR	Completed	No; in progress	Approaches include those options identified in the 2009 Final Interim Needs Assessment & Alternatives Screening Report and reclassification.
NAUSET HARBOR	Completed	No; in progress	Approaches are based on Draft Technical Memoranda Nos. 3 and 4 currently under development. No cost information is being provided in Watershed Report at this time.

Next Steps of this project:

An Implementation Report is going to be required 12 months after submission of the Watershed Reports. The Town of Eastham will be able to report the following progress for their watersheds:

Boat Meadow, Herring River, Rock Harbor, and Wellfleet Harbor: Fertilizer Bylaw in place, Board of Health Regulations for nitrogen reducing septic systems in environmentally sensitive areas, and public education newsletters.

Nauset Harbor: Fertilizer Bylaw in place, Board of Health Regulations for nitrogen reducing septic systems in environmentally sensitive areas, and public education newsletters. In addition:

- Collaboration between Eastham and Orleans on expanding water quality monitoring for Nauset Estuary – 3-years at 15 stations.
- Finalization of Technical Memorandum No. 3 for Salt Pond and Technical Memorandum No. 4 for Town Cove which outline the Town's approach for nitrogen management in these subwatersheds. This effort supports the 2016 submitted Watershed Report.
- Non-traditional technology development: Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB) grant funded investigation work at the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) Salt Pond Visitor Center.
- Continued coordination with the CCNS on determining a baseline loading for the Salt Pond Visitor Center's septic system.